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THE CRIMINAL STATISTICS OF BUENOS AYRES.

Provincia de Buenos Aires. Memoria del Departamento de Policía.
1892. Pp. 196; tables.

This account, presented by Guillermo J. Nunes, gives statistics of crimes of various sorts committed during the year 1891 in the Province of Buenos Ayres, classified by five groups, by specific offences, and by jurisdictions. It is suggestive as throwing light upon social conditions in a South American country. Comparisons by ratio with the year 1890, and a comparison by ratio of total criminality with that of various other countries, are given. The account contains also statistics of accidents, suicides, drunkenness, and of matters of minor interest.

As the comparison with other countries does not use the different groups of crimes, a comparison has been made with England and Wales, and a new table has been constructed. A comparison with some country of southern Europe would be more valuable, but the necessary statistics were not accessible.

It must be remembered, as shown by Dr. Robert Giffen,* that for various reasons a comparison of criminality of different countries is not very satisfactory; administration may be more efficient, or laws more numerous, in one country than another. In England "destroying of trees, shrubs, etc., growing" is included among "crimes against property." Such items are omitted in the table.

	Percentage of Total Crimes.		Proportion to 100,000 of Population.		Actual Numbers.	
	Province Buenos Ayres.	England and Wales.	Province Buenos Ayres.	England and Wales.	Province Buenos Ayres.	England and Wales.
Against the Person	46.7	4.7	245	6	1,826	1,834
" property...	44.5	84.1	233	113	1,736	32,543
" clastity...	2.2	3.8	11	5	84	1,489
Sum ¹	93.4	92.7	489	124	3,646	35,866
Total crimes.....	100.0	100.0	524	134	3,902	38,650
Drunkenness.....	.....	.....	1,081	660	8,044	189,746
Population.....	.....	.....	100,000	100,000	744,197	28,762,287

¹ Certain crimes are not included: in Buenos Ayres those peculiar to public employes, etc., and in England those against the game laws, etc.

The numbers for the province of Buenos Ayres are taken from the *Memoria del Departamento de Policía*, 1891, p. 180. The population is from p. 184.

The numbers for England and Wales are from the *Judicial Statistics*, 1890, p. 20, addition and subtraction having been performed to make the grouping as nearly as possible identical with that of the *Memoria*. The number for drunkenness is from p. 25. The population is given as estimated for 1890 in the *Statesman's Year book* for 1892, p. 16.

The numbers are in both cases the numbers of offences taken cognizance of by the police, not the numbers of offenders convicted.

* *Publications American Statistical Association*, Vol. III, p. 200.

L. P. LANE.